

**SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON  
COMMITTEE  
WITH  
CAMBRIAN CONFERENCE**

**MINUTES**

**Of a meeting held on  
FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 at 11.15am  
at Y Plas Machynlleth**

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The meeting was apprised of a message from Cllr Mansell Williams and the meeting received his best wishes for the future.

1.2 The Chair asked each member present to introduce themselves.

1.3 Rhydian Mason appraised the meeting of the Award received for the work in gaining the improved rail service through working in partnership.

**2. Record of attendance**

The following were present at the meeting:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Cllr Trevor Roberts Vice Chair (chaired the meeting)	Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee West Coast 100
Cllr Selwyn Griffiths Chair	Cambrian Coast Conference
Cllr Eryl Jones Williams	Cambrian Coast Conference
Robert Robinson Secretary	Welshpool Town Council
Rhydian Mason	Cambrian Rail Partnership
D. Ellis-Thomas AM	Welsh Government
David Crunkhorn	Arriva Trains Wales
Cllr Jeremy Barnes	Carno Community Council and Carno Station Action Group
Cllr Angela Russell	
Eirwyn Williams	
John Smallwood	Talylyn Railway
David Woodhouse	A-T Tourism
Cllr Michael Williams	Powys County Council and Machynlleth Town Council
Roger Goodhew	SARPA
Sarah Taylor	Aberystwyth University
David Taylor	Rail Future (Cambrian Branch)

The following presented apologies:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Cllr Mansell Williams	Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee
Matt Johnson	Shropshire Council
Cllr Anne Lloyd Jones	Gwynedd Council
Tudor Williams	Harlech School
Ben Davies	Arriva Trains Wales
Rebecca Evans	AM Mid and West Wales
Liz Saville Roberts	MP and AM
Roger Whitehouse	Talylyn Railway
R Sayers	Talylyn Railway
Cllr Dawn Hughes	Gwynedd Council
Cllr John Brynmar Hughes	Gwynedd Council
Angus Eickhoff	SARPA

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting (Joint)**

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting subject to the attendance notes as shown on file.

## **3. Actions taken forward from that meeting**

To receive an update on the following:

### **3.1 Welshpool Station Car Park**

The meeting was updated on the construction of the above and was informed that the car park was now open for use.

### **3.2 Town Bus Service for Welshpool**

The meeting was informed that there was still no progress with Powys County Council so Welshpool Town Council is now seeking advice on how to ensure the project goes forward via their solicitors.

### **3.3 Machynlleth works**

The meeting was pleased to note that the infrastructure works are now under way with completion due in January 2016. This work includes a new footbridge and lifts to give access to all.

The point was made that people found it easier to use the single platform rather than the two. The meeting noted the point.

### **3.4 Caersws Station car park**

Both Trevor Roberts and Rhydian Mason have involved in trying to take forward a new car park at the above. There was a meeting due last week but this was deferred due to the Community Council requesting same.

Investigations continue but it is feared that time run out for any grant aid.

### **3.5 Carno Station**

3.51 The meeting was given an update on Carno Station re-opening. The business case has been prepared and the timetables investigated.

The concern of the Carno Action Group is that their work maybe mixed in with the request from the Bow Street Station Group (via Ceredigion Council).

3.52 The crossing points have a bearing on train travel times. There is proposed at any new Carno Station a double road barrier. The Carno Action Group has concluded that the old Station Site is to be the site of any new Station.

3.53 The closing of crossing points is progressing but there was some concern expressed over the time that Powys County Council was taking over the works. Cllr M Williams is to send the Secretary a copy of an email on the subject.

### **4. Report on the Rail Survey October 2015**

The meeting received a presentation on the results of the rail survey.

The main points were:

- i) Significant increases in passenger traffic on both the main and coast lines.
- ii) Increase in traffic is generally across the board in each area of reason for travel.
- iii) The new rail timetable was welcomed.
- iv) Toilets were top of the agenda as being of concern.
- v) The need for WiFi and working electric points on trains.

The full report (when approved by the Minister) will be posted on the web site.

There were various comments by members to be noted as follows:

- i) No mention in the report of any improved car parking for Coast Line stations. (the survey showed 84% were satisfied by car parks on this line)
- ii) Bi-lingual announcements should be made on trains.
- iii) Information signs on trains not always accurate.
- iv) Increase in student traffic on the coast line maybe due to students preferring to travel by train to Pwllheli bearing in mind the increases in the cost of bus travel.

The presentation is to be posted on the web site later in the day.

The cost of the survey is being covered by Welsh Government and administered by Welshpool Town Council.

## **5. Other business**

The following was discussed under any other business.

### **5.1 Implementation Team**

The current implementation team is Cllr T Roberts, Robert Robinson and Rhydian Mason. The question was asked (as Mansell was now not available) if a fourth member is to be appointed. As the project is coming to and with just the final report to do the group of three is to remain.

### **5.2 Cambrian Lines Franchise**

Cllr Trevor Roberts updated the meeting on the Franchise.

There is no action at present needed from the meeting. The basic preparations for a presentation are completed.

### **5.3 Orange wallets and rail travel**

The orange wallet scheme was mentioned by Rhydian Mason.

Welshpool Town Council Tourist Information Office is promoting these as well and has a stock. Many wallets have been taken for use.

### **5.4 Coast Train Times**

A query was made with regard to the apparent lack of 'clockface' timetabling on the Coast Line. This is to be investigated and a report made to the next meeting.

### **5.5 Windows**

The meeting discussed the issue of dirty train windows. The windows of Arriva Trains Wales units are done at Machynlleth when trains are stabled there. The current weather does not aid keeping windows clean.

### **5.6 Grant Aid from County Councils**

The Secretary confirmed that the current grant aid position for the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee is as follows:

Ceredigion Council	£250 pa paid up to 31.3.2016
Shropshire Council	£250 pa paid up to 31.3.2016
Powys County Council	Still not paid any money to 31.3.2015 or 31.3.2016.

The secretary is chasing up Powys County Council on the matter.

The Grant Aid (along with the other two Councils) was agreed with Powys County Council (Phil Jackson).

## **8. Date of future meetings:**

The agreed dates for meetings for the 2016 year are:

Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Meeting Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Meeting Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Joint main and coast line meeting Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Meeting Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016

